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JANUARY 2, 1947

Town Meeting



BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

BROADCAST BY STATIONS OF THE AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO.



Would You Like To Turn the Clock Back?

Moderator, GEORGE V. DENNY, JR.

Speakers

GEORGE LAWTON

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE

NORMAN COUSINS

HARRISON BROWN

(See also page 15)

COMING

—January 9, 1947—

**Should We Have Labor-Management Courts To
Settle Labor Disputes?**

—January 16, 1947—

Should Rent Controls Be Lifted?

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THE BROADCAST OF JANUARY 2:

"Would You Like To Turn the Clock Back?"

Mr. DENNY	3
Dr. LAWTON	5
Miss BOURKE-WHITE	7
Mr. COUSINS	9
Dr. BROWN	11
THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN	15
QUESTIONS, PLEASE!	17

THE BROADCAST OF JANUARY 9:

"Should We Have Labor-Management Courts To Settle Labor Disputes?"

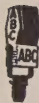
THE BROADCAST OF JANUARY 16:

"Should Rent Controls Be Lifted?"

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BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

GEORGE V. DENNY, JR., MODERATOR



JANUARY 2, 1947

VOL. 12, No. 36

Would You Like To Turn the Clock Back?

Announcer:

Tonight in Asheville, North Carolina, the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, and station WNCA, and a special Town Meeting Host Committee welcome you to the "Land of the Sky" for the first origination of America's Town Meeting of the Air in the home town of its famous moderator. To welcome Mr. Denny and our distinguished guests, here is the Mayor of Asheville, the Honorable Lyons Lee. (*Applause.*)

Mayor Lee:

There are many things we would like to say to George Denny by way of welcome to his home town. But you Town Meeting listeners know how proud we must be to have our citizen make good in so many ways as George Denny has made. As a citizen, by continuing to make contributions so magnificently toward the preservation of democracy, freedom and international understanding, he has won

the enduring gratitude of the nation. Your home town salutes you with admiration and warm affection, George Denny, and to your distinguished guests, Miss Bourke-White, Dr. Lawton, Dr. Brown, and Mr. Cousins, we extend a most cordial welcome to the City of Asheville.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, here is your genial moderator, Mr. George V. Denny, Jr. Mr. Denny. (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Good evening, neighbors, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for this cordial welcome. I'll carry it with me through the year and in the years to come. I want to take this opportunity to assure you again that America's Town Meeting is not a one-man proposition.

The Town Hall in New York, which it is my honor to head, is now in its fifty-second year. We have a staff of nearly 100 people,

a representative group of 40 distinguished trustees, and more than 100 national and international celebrities participate in our local, as well as our national, educational program.

Three of our speakers on tonight's program are members of our Town Hall family and appear frequently at Town Hall. The American Broadcasting Company and affiliated stations from coast to coast, more than 200 of them, cooperate each week to make this nation-wide Town Meeting a reality.

Last week on our Christmas program dedicated to the American family, we posed the question "Would You Rather Live in a Small Town or a Big City?" We invited your opinions on this question and they almost swamped us. You will be interested to know that the small town won over the big city by a vote of five to one.

Well, tonight, we are focusing the spotlight on you—you the individual in this Atomic Age Year II. Do you feel as comfortable about the world in which you live today as you did say 20, 30, or 40 years ago?

Do you ever have the feeling that you'd like to have been born in another, less hectic, period of history?

Do you ever yearn for the good old days?

As we enter one of the most crucial years of decision in all of

human history, we've invited a celebrated psychologist, two distinguished authors, and an eminent scientist to counsel with us on the question of *you* and the Atomic Age hereto—the age in which you live now.

Dr. George Lawton, psychologist and author of the new and successful book, *Aging Successfully*, and Margaret Bourke-White, *Life* photographer, world traveller, author of *Dear Fatherland*, *Rest Quietly*, differ sharply in their views about us.

Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, and author of *Modern Man Is Obsolete*, is going to push the clock back for us tonight for a better look at the species of man from whom we descended.

Dr. Harrison Brown, one of the atomic scientists and author of *Must Destruction Be Our Destiny?* will give us some grim facts about the world we have made for ourselves—the world we made when we unleashed the power of the atom July 14, 1945.

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet, friends? Well, in any case, may I suggest that after you listen to tonight's program, think them over again and see if there's any change you'd like to make.

• Now let's hear about ourselves from Dr. George Lawton, author of *Aging Successfully*. Dr. Lawton. (*Applause.*)

Dr. Lawton:

Are you a refugee from maturity? Many of us are. We try to turn back the clock, then we try to stop it, and then we throw it out the window. We become superannuated bobby-soxers and middle-aged pixies—people who grow older but never grow up.

We long for what never can return—those good old days when things were just as they should be. We never have gotten over our greatest love affair, our infatuation with the way we looked and talked and walked in our youth. That is why a woman always remains 21-plus and why we say the twenty best years of a woman's life are between 28 and 30. (*Laughter.*)

Science enables more and more of us to live out our three-score and ten years. Did you know that there are now almost fifty million people over 45 in this country? One-third of the nation. Ten million of us are over 65.

We grow older whether we want to or not, and the longer we live the older we get. There's only one way to avoid old age and that's by dying.

It is not wholesome mentally for us to be afraid of not being young and yet to become less young all the time. We Americans go in for a strange religion called "nympholotry" — the worship of the adolescent girl. Our movies, fiction, advertisements,

radio programs, make it a social error to grow old; a personal misfortune, an economic liability.

If you are over 40, have you tried to get a job lately?

My work as a psychologist brings me in close daily contact with men and women from 50 to 85. I can say this: that our national ailment is birthday-itis. But we are needlessly afraid of aging. It is not aging itself which causes trouble but our fear of aging and the way America and American employers treat aging.

We can, if we want, add life to the years, not merely years to life.

To age successfully, you have to age successively—go from one stage of life to the next dealing realistically with the problems, responsibilities and challenges that each age brings but also taking advantage of the pleasures.

A sophomore once described middle age as a time when people stop growing everywhere but in the middle. But we can always grow in our thoughts and feelings. Age is a matter of how alive we are rather than of our years. We must realize that all life is change.

Change can be good or bad. We must ask ourselves, is this change an improvement? Then I'm for it. Is it a loss? How can I prevent it or how can I make the best of it.

There are people who get panicky when they have to think out a fresh solution to a difficult

problem. That, Mr. Denny, is the reason for our confusion as we face the problem of the Atomic Age.

As we become mature, we enjoy the fruits of experience, self-control, wisdom, judgment, strategy, the broad view. These are the rewards of aging successfully. We know ourselves and others better. We know what we want and how to go after it.

We become more "we-minded," Mr. Cousins, and more devoted to "live and help live."

We can manage our own thoughts and feelings. We have a life of our own and don't have to borrow someone else's life.

The mature person has the best kind of security, a willingness to face up to all that life can do.

One of the greatest things ever said by the late President Roosevelt was that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." That, Mr. Denny, is as true today, as we meet the challenges of the Atomic Age, as it was in 1933.

But American life is not creating enough of us who are mature. Have you heard about a "Five-B"? A Five-B has bridges, bifocals, baldness, bulges, and bunions.

We need more mature leaders in labor, top management, politics, and public life. Too many throw tantrums when they don't get their own way. You can supply your own examples.

For many are men who die at 40 but don't get officially buried until 70.

They remind me of a very old man whom I asked, "How are you?"

"Fine," he replied, "my mind is all gone but I don't miss it any." (*Laughter.*)

Only mature people with growing minds and outgoing temperaments can win the war against war, against labor-management difficulties, against family breakdown, delinquency, racial and religious prejudice.

In short, Miss Bourke-White, my job is to help people grow up, to understand themselves, to become personally creative, to manage their own life.

I believe that children should get the best education possible, the greatest individual study and health. But our society is controlled by men and women over 45. The way they think influences young people.

To get the latest good ideas into the mind of a child, we must start now to make more flexible, more unafraid of change, the minds of men and women who establish policy in business, education, radio.

The older adult needs re-education more than the child needs education, for the worst ignorance is the presence of misinformation. The longer we live the more ideas we accumulate that perhaps never were correct but certainly are not

suitied for the Atomic Age. (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Dr. Lawton, Well, I'm beginning to feel better already.

Oh, boy, isn't it too bad we don't have television—color television—tonight? Do you see the speaker I'm going to introduce next, and that beautiful Adrian gown? Oh, boy!

Let's hear from this charming world traveler, celebrated *Life* photographer whose current book about Germany, *Dear Fatherland, Rest Quietly*, concerns Europe's Number One problem which is likely to be our Number One foreign problem during the coming year. Miss Margaret Bourke-White. Miss Bourke-White. (*Applause.*)

Miss Bourke-White:

Thank you, Mr. Denny. Our Dr. Lawton seems to be trying to usher us uncomplainingly into gentle old age, saying, "Oh, come on now, old dear, don't be a middle-aged pixy, but live like a grandmother and like it." Or like a grandfather.

It's quite possible, Dr. Lawton, for men of 50 to grow long luxurious beards. Maybe at that age they could produce gray ones and at one time they did. But is there anything wrong if a man refuses to wear a set of whiskers and instead splashes out in the neckties

which are truly the plumage of the male, for example, like the one Dr. Lawton is wearing tonight. (*Laughter.*)

Through all Dr. Lawton's ten-dollar words like his prize tongue-twister, nympholotry, the worship of the adolescent girl, I think our speaker shows a surprising interest in young girls, in which he is at one with the universe. And I'm sure everyone will understand perfectly for certainly there's nothing lovelier than a handsome, alert, young girl just as she steps into men's imaginations. This may be known, Mr. Lawton, more as the pin-up age than the Atomic Age.

Then the girl grows older and this is where life begins. As she grows older I think she'll begin making that most satisfying of all discoveries that, with increasing maturity, instead of finding life more drab, it grows richer and more rewarding.

Instead of finding she makes fewer friends, she will find that more and more people are drawn to her, because then she has a chance to possess that most attractive of all winning combinations: a mature mind with a young personality.

I think perhaps this is usually a little easier job for a professional woman, but then I'm probably a bit biased. I happen to know more professional women, and I know a lot of very attractive ones. But

certainly the professional woman does not have a monopoly on this kind of attractiveness.

I think the basic factor is staying interested in the world; also in staying smart looking. That's not so difficult these days, when you can get so much expert advice. Of course, it doesn't help much to be one of those women with big waists and narrow minds.

Maybe this will sound like pure voodoo to Mr. Lawton, but I think just plain wanting to stay young helps. I see nothing wrong in it. A desire to stay young doesn't automatically produce the psychiatric spectacle that Dr. Lawton seems to suggest.

I'm not speaking now of escapists from reality. There are some of those, of course. But I think Dr. Lawton is too hard on Americans when he suggests that there is such a high proportion of middle-aged misfits.

I see no harm in grownups doing young things. Take for example, my own mother. Certainly she was no superannuated bobby-soxer, but mother decided when she reached her 50's that she was going to do some of the things that she had not been able to do as a girl. One of them was to go to college.

Every summer she went to some university and took a course. Often she took classes in the psychology of the blind, because

teaching the blind was her chosen work.

One summer, when she was at Columbia, the heat was particularly bad, and I phoned her because I was worried.

"Oh, no, Margaret," she said, "I haven't minded the heat, because I've been taking swimming lessons." She was 60 then. And she added, "Today, I came nearer to heaven than I ever expected to come, because today, for the first time, I learned to float on my back."

She never over-taxed herself. She had a way of learning new things gracefully. She even died well, with that forward-looking glance. She was registering for summer seminars. She was 62 then.

I was doing some airplane photography over New York at the time. Since Mother had never flown, I had invited her to come with me for a flight. She was just signing up for the seminar when she asked permission to be absent when the class met the next day, "Because," said Mother, "My daughter is going to take me on my first airplane flight." When suddenly, from a heart attack, she died.

If she had to go, I can hardly imagine a more beautiful way than that. When at the last instant, she was looking forward to new things.

My mother never saw the Atomic Age, but I don't think it would have frightened her much. Instead of saying, "How soon will it kill me?" as so many people are doing today, she would have said, to Dr. Brown, here, "How soon will it make cooking and house-keeping easier? How soon will it widen our universe?"

Mankind has survived some pretty sweeping changes. In the Ice Age, the future must have looked pretty dim, and family life must have become pretty uncomfortable, but the human race survived.

Perhaps the atom will not be the last door to be unlocked. If we start harnessing atoms to fly us to other planets, I'd like to be the photographer accredited to the trip, unless Dr. Lawton, here, thinks I should step aside and let some bobby-soxer take on the job.

When it comes to our question of the evening, there are two ways of wanting to turn back the hands of time—either the limited way, which has to do with one's own personal age, or the global way, which involves the march of science. For my part, Mr. Cousins, I don't want to turn back the clock in either way. (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Margaret Bourke-White, for leading us right into the hands of our next speaker—a brilliant young editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature*,

also of the magnificently challenging book, *Modern Man Is Obsolete*. Mr. Norman Cousins. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Cousins:

Mr. Denny, I'd like to address myself to Miss Bourke-White and Dr. Lawton. I, too, am concerned with the problem of aging successfully. I want to make sure we have a world left to enjoy old age in. For, if we have another war, very few people listening to this program tonight will have to worry about the problem of old age, or for that matter, about any thing else. Would I like to turn the clock back? Mr. Denny, if I had that power, I would skip over all the tempting way stations. I would skip over the period from 1890 to 1910, when it really seemed that civilization was made up of civilized people, when it really seemed that nations had at last outgrown war, when people had time to do things, time to get places—even if they had to travel by buggy—when they had time to enjoy life, time to understand each other, time to think. Yes, I would skip over that glorious 20-year period.

The hands of my clock, Mr. Denny, would keep on turning far back beyond that—back many thousands of years, back even further than the Stone Age.

I would go back to the very first time in human history that a man attempted to kill another man.

Since I assume that giving me this power to turn the clock back, you also give me the power to tinker a little here and there, for all of which, Mr. Denny, I am properly grateful, I would take this man and do some pretty basic exploratory work.

I would attempt to locate the mechanism in man that has apparently made war a part of his nature, for in all of recorded history, he has been free of war for only 300 years.

I would attempt to find out whether war is the price he has to pay for his intelligence, whether his ability to think should necessarily compel him to think so frequently in terms of power, of aggression, of brute force, of conquest.

In short, I would attempt to find out why it is and what it is that has made him more of a competitive than a cooperative animal, more of a grasper than a giver. If I were lucky enough to locate that mechanism or germ, I'd get out my scalpel and go to work.

But having taken something away, I doubt whether I would stop there. Something new should probably be added, and that something would be a capacity to be part of a group morality and to make that group morality work. The sad fact is that not once, so far in human history, has there been a group morality that has really worked. When I say worked,

I mean precisely that—not something that has worked here and there for a short time under favorable circumstances, but a group morality which, in terms of the net results has met the test of history, has actually been able to create both group peace and group justice, has actually been able to give man protection against collective injustice.

What about Christianity? Can we deny the truth of the Reverend Henry Liddon's remark that "the trouble with Christianity is that it has never seriously been tried."

Did Christianity stop Germany—a supposedly Christian nation—from starting two world wars in one generation?

How many people do you know who really practice the way of life described in the Sermon on the Mount?

How many people profess to believe in Christianity largely because it is the socially correct thing to do?

We have a long way to go before we reach the age of conscience that James Henry Breasted wrote about.

But, I'm afraid it doesn't do much good, at the beginning of the second year of the Atomic Age, to speculate how the human animal should have been changed way back in the Cenozoic age.

There is no turning the clock back. We're on our own. The challenge is here now. It's not

something that we can bequeath to our children along with the unpaid mortgages and the back taxes.

Well, where does that all leave us? As citizens of this country, it leaves us with the uncomfortable certainty that the next war will reach out to the cities of America just as surely as the last war reached out to London and Rotterdam and Berlin and Hiroshima. It leaves us with the knowledge that none of the basic tensions in the world that go to make war have been removed. Machinery of world law which alone can deal with these tensions, that machinery is not yet in operation.

What can each of us do? Until the American people take the leadership in proposing amendments to the UN Charter which take away from individual nations completely not only the machinery of battle that can wage war, but the machinery of decision that can start war, until that time there will be no peace.

Until the United Nations is strengthened into an organization from which no state can withdraw or secede, under any circumstances, until its decisions are made compulsory and binding, until it has authority over the individual in limited and well-defined areas relating to mutual security, until then we shall be without even the minimal equipment necessary to prevent war.

Let us be clear about this. Even world law will not get at the basic conflicts within man himself. For so long as man is capable of injustice, there will be conflict, but world law will at least give us a floor over quicksand. It may at least give us time to think, time to change, and, most importantly, not only time to grow old but time to grow up. (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Norman Cousins. Thank you particularly for keeping the finger pointing at us. At us, free men and women who have the right to make the wrong choices day by day as well as the right to make the wise and right choices.

Now, Dr. Brown, what do you think about us? Do you think we still have a chance with these weapons you scientists have put in our hands?

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome to America's Town Meeting one of the leading nuclear scientists at the University of Chicago, author of *Must Destruction Be Our Destiny*. Dr. Harrison Brown. (*Applause.*)

Dr. Brown:

A few days ago I had the pleasure of reading George Lawton's new book *Aging Successfully*. In his book, Dr. Lawton makes the statement that, if present trends continue, in the year 2,000 there will be 30 million persons over 60 in this country. Dr. Lawton, I am afraid you are an optimist.

Dr. Lawton quite properly makes the statement that there is no magic formula for living to a ripe old age. I believe that he could have added to that statement that there is an excellent formula for dying early.

We scientists helped to create that formula. The statesmen are now putting on the finishing touches.

Such thoughts fill my mind when I attempt to answer the question, "Would You Like To Turn the Clock Back?"

Yes, I would like to turn the clock back if, by doing so, certain tragic errors in judgment could be undone. For example, prior to the United Nations meeting in San Francisco in April, 1945, a representative group of key scientists urged that the world be told of the probable existence of atomic bombs. To reveal the existence of the bomb without revealing technical information would not have injured us and it would have enabled the United Nations to organize in full knowledge of one of the greatest difficulties to confront them.

The plea of those scientists was ignored. As a result, the United Nations was formed upon foundation stones that were already crumbling. It was formed to keep peace in a world that by that time no longer existed. If all of that could be changed, I would gladly turn the clock back.

The second tragic error of judgment goes back to early 1945. We informed our other allies. Would it not have been wise to have informed at least our Russian allies of the existence of this new weapon prior to its use? Is it any wonder that on this second day of January, 1947, the Russians are still suspicious of our motives in desiring to set up an international atomic development authority. Again, if that could be remedied, I would gladly turn the clock back.

Now for the third error. The time is July, 1945. Over 60 scientists petitioned, indeed implored, our Government not to use the atomic bomb against enemy cities without prior warning, perhaps an ultimatum based upon a demonstration on a Pacific island.

Our leaders did not listen to those scientists and we had the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I say tragedies advisedly. In bombing those two cities we, the people of the United States who like to call ourselves the moral leaders of the world, have set a precedent for all future warfare.

If there is another war, the atomic bomb *will be used*, whatever we say about the wonderful possibilities of control. No nation will be able to afford *not* to use atomic bombs and no nation will be able to afford *not* to strike first.

We have heard a great deal about the hundreds of thousands

of American boys that were saved. Yet we have it on the authority of Admiral Halsey that there was no actual military necessity for using the bomb.

That is why I call Hiroshima and Nagasaki a tragedy. If all the blood of that tragedy, if the burns, the radiation disease, the sterilization could be prevented, if the cancer and the mutations of the future could be avoided, I would gladly turn the clock back.

But in spite of the disappointments I have mentioned, we scientists felt, when those bombs exploded over Japan, that the time for the great awakening had arrived. Surely, we felt, people the world over will realize that war must be a thing of the past, that now is the time for real greatness of leadership and broad vision of planning. But no, in places where we expected to find greatness in vision, we found only childishness, childish thoughts and childish actions.

I would gladly turn the clock back if by doing so adult thoughts and adult actions would result.

Dr. Lawton, you reminded us that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. But can you explain why human beings are so cowardly. We fear each other yet we are afraid to take steps to dissipate those fears. We are afraid of war, yet afraid to take the steps necessary to abolish war.

I ask you these questions, Dr. Lawton, by way of emphasizing another aspect concerning the points that you made. Both you and Miss Bourke-White agree that the key word in enabling individuals to face the problem of aging successfully is "adjustment."

Mr. Cousins and I have attempted to show that society faces precisely the same problem—how to adjust itself to the demands of maturity. If civilization can do that, then we can be sure that civilization, too, will learn the trick of aging successfully.

So instead of turning the clock back, Mr. Denny, we should look at ourselves in the present and see if we have what it takes to survive. We must remember that survival is no longer a question of how much military might do we have, rather it is a question of can we behave rationally? Can we subordinate our prejudices? Can we recapture a degree of moral integrity? Can we train ourselves to be true citizens of the world? (*Applause.*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Harrison Brown. Now Margaret Bourke-White, if you and your optimistic colleague will join me up here around the microphone, we have time for a short discussion before we take the questions from this representative western North Carolina audience, and I hope there are a lot of questions ready there. Mr.

Cousins, where are you? Oh, yes, here you are.

Mr. Cousins: Mr. Denny, I'd like to suggest one way of recapturing the bloom of youth. Just return to your home town and get a good-will sun tan from your friends and neighbors. I say that because there's a man on the platform tonight who looks a lot younger after the series of testimonials and tributes that have been showered on him ever since we arrived in Asheville this morning.

I am referring, of course, to our youthful moderator, George V. Denny. Now, to show you how popular our hometown boy is in Asheville, just take the case of the hotel we're staying at. They used to call it the Vanderbilt Hotel. Now they call it the George Vanderbilt Hotel. (*Applause and laughter.*)

Mr. Denny: That's not fair. That's not fair but it's very lovely. Thank you very much. I thought he was really going to heckle Miss Bourke-White.

Mr. Cousins: I am.

Mr. Denny: Oh, you are. Well, you just put one over on me. Do you want to go ahead with heckling Miss Bourke-White now?

Mr. Cousins: Well, George, heckling is a very strong word. It's very difficult to heckle Miss Bourke-White. But as Miss Bourke-White spoke about her mother, thinking of cooking in

connection with the Atomic Age, I couldn't help thinking about that piece that Charles Lamb wrote, *The Dissertation on a Roast Pig*. You recall that they discovered how to cook, because the house burned down. Now, I hope that we will discover how to use atomic energy before the world burns down.

Mr. Denny: Go ahead. Miss Bourke-White, do you want to comment on that sage remark of Norman Cousins?

Miss Bourke-White: Well, my feeling is that Norman Cousins should go back and read his own interview in today's paper, in which he made an excellent statement, "The fear of being attacked is one of the greatest causes of war." My feeling is that what we have to do is to teach nations aging successfully and then we can go on and use atomic energy and even apply it to bake ovens.

Mr. Cousins: Agreed.

Mr. Denny: That brings up the *Aging Successfully* gentleman here. The successfully aging Dr. Lawton.

Dr. Lawton: All I want to do is heckle Miss Bourke-White a bit about those ten-dollar words, you know. We live in inflationary times and a ten-dollar word doesn't mean so much today. (*Laughter.*) You can't seem to make up your mind on which side you're on. Whether you belong with the youthful or with the aging. Perhaps we can help you. You be-

long with the aging, as we all do, since every human being starts aging at birth.

Miss Bourke-White, you may have thought that your very interesting remarks represented an opposing argument. Actually, you offered the best example for my case. I can't think of a better one. I wish every woman could be like your successfully aging mother, even though I would have to close up shop.

Now, I'm going to ask Miss Bourke-White the toughest question in the world. You know, a woman will never tell her right age. Margaret, how old are you?

Miss Bourke-White: Well, you know as long as one can lie successfully about one's age, I believe that's the secret of aging successfully. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Congratulations, Peggy! **Dr. Harrison Brown:**

Dr. Brown: Dr. Lawton, I think

THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

NORMAN COUSINS—After his graduation in 1933 from Teachers College, Columbia University, Mr. Cousins became an editorial writer for the *New York Post*. After one year at this job he joined the staff of *Current History* where he stayed for five years as literary editor and managing editor. In 1940 he became executive editor of the *Saturday Review of Literature*, and since June, 1942, has been editor. In 1934, Mr. Cousins was appointed publication consultant and editor of "U.S.A." of the Office of War Information. In addition to his magazine writing, Mr. Cousins is the author of *The Good Inheritance*, *The Democratic Chance*, and *Modern Man Is Obsolete*.

MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE—Outstanding woman photographer, Miss Bourke-White has been an associate editor of *Life* magazine since 1936. Miss Bourke-White studied at Columbia and the University of Michigan and received an A.B. degree from Cornell University. Beginning her photographic career in 1927, Miss Bourke-White, specialized in industrial photography and documentary films. She has taken pictures in more than twenty countries and in the arctic region.

In 1934, Miss Bourke-White made films to show Russian industrial progress under the Five-Year Plan. She also produced the pictures "Eyes of Russia" and "Red Republic." She collaborated with Erskine Caldwell on the books *You Have Seen Their Faces*, *North of the Danube*, and *Say! Is This the U.S.A.*

During the war, Miss Bourke-White was an accredited correspondent-photographer with the U. S. Air Forces in Great Britain, North Africa, and continental Europe. From her experiences on the

Italian front, she produced the book, *They Called It Purple Heart Valley*." Some of Miss Bourke-White's other books include *One Thing Leads To Another*, *Freighters of Fortune*, and *Story of Steel*. Her newest book, recently released, is *Dear Fatherland, Rest Quietly*.

HARRISON SCOTT BROWN—Assistant professor at the Institute for Nuclear Studies, of the University of Chicago, Dr. Brown was formerly assistant director of chemistry in connection with the Manhattan Project which developed the atomic bomb.

Born in Sheridan, Wyoming, in 1917, Dr. Brown has a B.S. from the University of California, and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. For one year he was instructor of chemistry at Johns Hopkins and then he became a research associate on the plutonium project of the University of Chicago. From 1943 to 1946, he was assistant director of chemistry at the Clinton Laboratories at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where important work on the atomic bombs was carried on.

During last summer Dr. Brown made an extensive lecture tour. He is the author of the book, *Must Destruction Be Our Destiny?*

GEORGE LAWTON—Dr. Lawton is currently serving his second term of office as president of the Metropolitan New York Association of Applied Psychology. He also has been director of the Old Age Counseling Service, New York City. He is the author of many magazine articles on subjects relating to psychology and in particular with the problems of old age. He is the author of the recent book, *Aging Successfully*.

you made a very important statement in your opening address when you said that too many men in public office die at 40 but don't get officially buried until 70. I personally like to compare the human mind with slow-setting concrete. For a while it is flexible, then it hardens, and you must take an air hammer if you want to change it or even make a dent in it.

A fine example of that occurred last Sunday when the Hearst papers quoted a number of Senators concerning their beliefs on atomic energy. Those Senators fully demonstrated that the concrete has already hardened and that we must get out the air hammer. (*Laughter.*)

Dr. Lawton, if you are contemplating setting up a new school for old-age problems, I suggest that you give serious consideration to Washington, D.C., for your location. They need one very badly. (*Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Dr. Lawton, do you care to comment on that observation?

Dr. Lawton: I think the important thing is that we should raise the standard of human relationships rather than worry so much about the standards of living. I think that we must select our leaders. In the last war every soldier, every officer, was screened to see whether he was physically, mentally, emotionally fit for the task that he had to serve.

I propose that every leader in public life, members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, members of the State Department, should be screened to see whether they're really adult, and then out of the group that is passed on by the social scientists as adult, the citizens of the country may vote.

I think that's one way to work it, because as we have it today, we cannot control the maturity of the people who are elected to office, and the wrong leaders can lead us to destruction. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Dr. Lawton. Each one of these speakers wanted to come in at that point, but as the hands of the clock go moving on, we have reached that point in the program where we pause briefly for station identification.

Announcer: Tonight, your Town Meeting is originating in Asheville, North Carolina, where we are the guests of Station WNCA, the Chamber of Commerce, and a special Town Meeting host committee. We are discussing the question, "Would You Like To Turn the Clock Back?" For this title, we thank the *American Magazine* which used it in connection with Dr. Lawton's article on this subject.

High school students and parents alike will be interested in a special Town Meeting broadcast to originate in Washington, D.C., on

March 20 on the subject "Should Our Public Schools Educate for Marriage and Family Relations?"

Four students will be selected with the aid of the national senior high school newspaper *Our Times*. All high school students in the Nation are invited to consult their principals or teachers of speech or English about this talent question.

Nominations must come through

principals or sponsoring teachers by midnight February 1. Detailed information about this talent quest may be secured from the high school newspaper *Our Times*, 400 South Front St., Columbus, Ohio.

Junior Town Meetings, patterned after America's Town Meeting, are now broadcast in more than 100 communities throughout the country.

QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

Mr. Denny: Not only to encourage good questions, friends, but to remind you that the United States Savings Bonds are good investments, Town Hall is offering an \$18.75 United States Savings Bond, which will be worth \$25 if you keep it to maturity, for the question which, in the opinion of our local committee of judges, does the most to bring out facts or widen the scope of this terribly wide discussion, provided the question is limited to 25 words. No prize will be awarded if our local committee of judges makes this decision. Now, we're ready for the questions. We'll start with the gentleman on the second row.

Man: Dr. Brown, do you think the Byrd and Russian expeditions to the South Pole are essentially for purposes of locating additional uranium deposits for development of atomic energy?

Dr. Brown: I believe that that is quite conceivable, sir, although

I am not sure of it at all. I feel that the Government might possibly be looking for uranium ores down in the Antarctic region although I am by no means sure of that point.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The gentleman over here on the fifth row.

Man: Mr. Cousins. You speak of the power of the atom in connection with war only, but how about its other uses in generating power? There are thousands of other uses such as driving ships, trains, planes, and automobiles. Wouldn't you rather turn the clock forward to such a time as we are utilizing the power of the atom for this?

Mr. Cousins: I agree with you completely. I look forward to the time when it will be possible to use atomic energy to get to places, to do things, and to liberate man for education and self-development. The important fact

to keep in mind is that that may be many years away, as our scientists tell us.

Meanwhile, the world has seen five atomic bombs, two of them used on live targets. The job we have to do is to make sure that not many, none will be used before we get the chance to use atomic energy for constructive purposes.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Cousins. The lady in the black dress in the balcony.

Lady: Miss Bourke-White. Do you not believe that after 30 a woman is more able, mentally, physically, and spiritually, to serve humanity, instead of turning the clock back?

Miss Bourke-White: My answer to that is an emphatic "yes."

Man: Dr. Harrison Brown. My question is, since the atomic bomb has not been outlawed, what, if anything, have scientists discovered or invented for the protection of the public against the atomic bomb?

Dr. Brown: I think that all of us will be deluding ourselves if we think for a moment that there will be invented any miraculous device that will give us security. There are only two things that you can do to protect yourself against atomic bombs. You can get yourself as far away from where the bomb is going to land as you possibly can, or you can make some

effort to prevent the bomb from reaching you.

Now that latter thing is extremely difficult. As a matter of fact, I think you can judge how difficult it is by the fact that during the last war when the V-2's were coming over England, the Germans shot many V-2's over, but not a one was shot down. If those V-2's had contained atomic warheads, it would have been curtains for Southern England.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Dr. Brown. Mr. Cousins is on his feet for that one.

Mr. Cousins: Dr. Brown, I believe you have said in effect that there is no protection against the atomic bomb, but in your book, *Must Destruction Be Our Destiny*, you do say there is a defense. You say the only defense against an atomic bomb is peace. Wouldn't you care to emphasize that now?

Mr. Brown: I can't emphasize that except just by underlining it. I agree with Mr. Cousins wholeheartedly. Peace, there must be peace! (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you.

Man: Question: How can we establish agencies to control the forces the scientists have created so that the peoples of the world may enjoy security?

Mr. Denny: Well, that's a million-dollar question, and another Town Meeting subject. I don't think I'm going to let him start on that. Let's have another ques-

tion that's a little simpler. Don't ask him how to build a world organization overnight that will prevent war. The lady way in the back. Hold your head up, please, so we can get what you're saying.

Lady: Does not history repeat itself in that the atomic bomb is only another method of mankind's ultimate destruction?

Mr. Denny: Did you get that, Mr. Cousins? Does not history repeat itself?

Mr. Cousins: Isn't that just another method of mankind causing his own destruction? Is that the question—I couldn't quite get it?

Well, as members of the human species entering the third year of the Atomic Age, I suppose we can ponder the implications of the fact that man is the only species on this planet, with the exception of the ant, that makes organized war on its own kind.

Now, so far as I know, the ants have not yet discovered the atomic energy so we need not fear that they will run out of ants to fight wars with. Man's problem is somewhat more serious. Down through the centuries, from the time he threw the first stone or picked up the first club, his battlefields have become larger and his weapons increasingly efficient. He has now arrived at the point where the battlefield has become the planet itself, and where his weapons can

produce absolute devastation over virtually limitless areas.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. I see you gave Mr. Cousins a chance to finish his speech. (*Laughter.*) Now the lady right there on the fifth row.

Lady: Dr. Lawton, do you feel that fear or that selfishness is most responsible for intolerance in the world and do you feel that psychology offers a correction for either or both?

Mr. Denny: There's your fear question, Dr. Lawton.

Dr. Lawton: Yes, I think that selfishness is a sign of fear. I think that fear and love are really the basic human emotions. I'm not at all worried about the atomic bomb. I'm worried about the people who are going to decide how to use it. I, as a psychologist, feel that is where we should emphasize our point. When we're afraid we either get paralyzed, or we run away, or we attack. The attack is war. If we can eradicate fear, then we can eradicate war.

The difficulty is that our civilization does a great deal to create fear and anxiety. We have prejudices of all kinds, religious prejudice, racial prejudice, and our economic situation causes a great deal of anxiety.

So I think we have to go back and decide what is responsible for fear. A great deal of our education encourages anxiety, a very competitive spirit. Just think of

what the depression did to cause fear. I think that's the way to approach the problem to see what causes fear and then to work on the causes.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Dr. Lawton. The lady with the black suit. The black dress.

Lady: Miss Bourke-White. What can a woman in Asheville, North Carolina, do to better prepare for the Atomic Age?

Mr. Denny: Well, that's another one of those 150-thousand dollar questions. (*Laughter.*) I'm afraid we—

Miss Bourke-White: I have an answer, Mr. Denny.

Mr. Denny: All right. Good.

Miss Bourke-White: I think that women here and everywhere else can prepare for the Atomic Age by staying young in their minds, staying eagerly interested in new things and ready to receive them. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Denny: Wonderful, Miss Bourke-White. All right, the lady there with the question for Mr. Lawton.

Lady: Why have not sociological developments kept pace with scientific developments?

Mr. Denny: Why haven't sociological developments kept pace with scientific developments? Why, Dr. Lawton? (*Laughter.*)

Dr. Lawton: Because I think we fall into ruts somewhere in the middle years. You see each one

of us is very eager to make a living and establish a family and when we've done that we stop thinking, we stop growing, and we lose interest in the outside community.

There is a tremendous lag between social progress and scientific progress. I should imagine that our social ideas are several hundred years behind our scientific ones.

I think we must work on that problem. It means that all of us here have to be willing to change our minds quickly. We have to change them as fast as new inventions are turned out, because every new invention creates a new social problem. The automobile created a new problem. The radio created a new problem. In the next five or ten years, we'll have television. That may create new social problems.

Are your minds quick enough on the draw to change, to meet the new invention? I think our educational system should teach us the ability to be flexible in our thoughts, to change our opinions quickly if the evidence changes.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Dr. Lawton. The gentleman in the second row.

Man: Mr. Cousins. This is what I'd like to know. Do you think that the errors made continually by society and its governments can be remedied or prevented by world government?

Mr. Cousins: I don't think there is a sure-fire solution to any problem, especially this problem. I doubt very much whether world government can be a definitive solution. As I tried to indicate earlier, what we need now is time. We haven't got much time.

If we can take away from nations the power to wage war, and if we can give the United Nations access to and control over the individual, if we can give the United Nations authority over the individual in certain well-defined areas relating to world order, then we have a chance. After we get going, we can work our own way. Meanwhile, we have got to do something to stem the tide.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady in the balcony.

Lady: Dr. Brown, how much longer will it be before atomic energy can be used for constructive uses, not only individually, but internationally?

Mr. Denny: Dr. Brown. There is a practical housewife for you.

Dr. Brown: I believe that atomic energy may well be used constructively within, say, the next 10 years. But there is one thing that all of us should remember: The more atomic energy is used industrially, the easier it will be for people to start throwing bombs at each other. For that reason, we cannot look forward to our using this new energy on a large scale for peaceful uses until we

first learn how to control it for warlike purposes.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. The lady in the middle of the hall—way back.

Lady: My question is directed to Miss Bourke-White. Are we ready for the Atomic Age until we realize—that is, the laymen—how to use atomic energy constructively instead of destructively?

Mr. Denny: Well, that was like the last question. Do you want to add to it?

Miss Bourke-White: I have nothing to add, except that I believe taking an interest in international affairs is a great preparation for the American citizen towards the Atomic Age.

Mr. Denny: The gentleman down there in the center.

Man: I have a question for Dr. Brown. Dr. Brown states that in the next war no nation will fail to use the atomic bomb. My question is, what are the possibilities of outlawing atomic warfare such as has been done with gas in past wars?

Mr. Brown: I think that one should not compare atomic warfare with gas warfare. As a matter of fact, I personally am very dubious concerning this outlawing business even on gas warfare. I personally believe that gas warfare was not used in this war primarily because it fundamentally is not a good weapon for the type of war that was waged. I think

that in the future, with atomic weapons, the temptation is always going to be too great. There is always some fool, such as Hitler, who is always going to be willing to take the chance. Just any paper outlawing, I feel, will not work. Certainly, we should not count upon it.

Man: The question is for Mr. Cousins. Since moral development is the greatest present need, doesn't the Atomic Age throw the greatest challenge to our Christian church for unified leadership?

Mr. Cousins: Of course, it throws the challenge to all human beings, of whatever faith, whatever religion, whatever race, whatever creed.

Man: I want to ask Dr. Brown why has the world—human nature, human beings—been so slow in advancing while the scientists have advanced so much faster during the second world war?

Mr. Denny: We had a question similar to that. Would you care to add your comment to it? Why has science advanced so much faster than human relations?

Mr. Brown: I think that the main reason there is that in science you have things that you can specifically prove in the laboratory and which nobody can deny. Experiments on a social level are extremely difficult. They involve whole nations and large numbers of people, and because of that, people have their own ideas, they

cannot prove them, so they argue. The net result is that very little gets done.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Harrison Brown. Thank you, Dr. George Lawton, Margaret Bourke-White, and Norman Cousins. It seems to me that a summary for tonight's discussion could be made in four words—but those four words should be repeated by us consciously and subconsciously many times each day. These four words are, and please burn them into your memory: "It's up to you."

When the problems of the day seem a bit thick, and we feel we'd like to turn away from them, each one of us should remember that that—that very attitude—is the first step toward totalitarianism and dictatorships.

Remember that a thousand totalitarian minds are ready to give you and me the answers to all of our social, economic, and political problems. As long, though, as we are free, it's up to us.

As we enter this bewildering new year, we might resolve, then, to take courage from the great leaders in American history, who, with faith in their hearts, faced impossible odds, yet won in the end—Columbus, George Washington, Lincoln, Wilson, yes, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

No, we cannot turn the clock back. As Dr. Brown has shown us, the atomic clock in the Atomic

Age is moving more swiftly than any clock before in all of human history.

Your Town Meeting will do all in its power to help you to adjust your thinking to this Atomic Age. So next we, as the new Congress assembles in Washington, will discuss America's No. 1 domestic problem, labor-management relations. Now let us have the news of the coming January programs.

Announcer: Next week, January 9, in Town Hall, in New York, our subject will be, "Should We Have Labor-Management Courts To Settle Labor Disputes?" Our speakers will be Senator Homer Ferguson of Michigan, Robert J. Watt of the American Federation of Labor, Mrs. Elinore Herrick of the *New York Herald Tribune*, and Victor Riesel of the *New York Post*.

The following week, January 16, our topic will be "Should Rent Controls Be Lifted?" Our speakers will be Herbert U. Nelson, executive vice president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards; Congressman Albert Gore, Democrat of Tennessee; R. J. Thomas, vice president of the CIO; and Douglas Whitlock, attorney and chairman of the Building Products Institute.

The following week, January 23, we return to North Carolina—High Point, to be exact—to hear a

discussion by Harold Stassen and Robert R. Nathan on the question, "Can Business Afford a Twenty-five Per Cent Wage Increase Without Raising Prices?" Our special interrogators will be Emerson Schmidt, director of Economic Research, United States Chamber of Commerce; and James P. Carey, secretary of the CIO.

Copies of tonight's program and all Town Meeting programs may be secured by sending ten cents to Town Hall, New York 18, New York. Now for the announcement of tonight's bond winner, here's Mr. Denny.

Mr. Denny: Tonight's best question, according to our local committee of judges, was, "Why have not social developments kept pace with scientific developments?" It looks like we'll have to award prizes to both people who asked that question. Congratulations and thank you, friends and neighbors of Asheville, North Carolina, the Chamber of Commerce, Station WNCA, and our distinguished host committee, for your participation in tonight's program.

I want to extend our special thanks on behalf of our speakers and myself to the Biltmore Industries and Stuart Nye for their marvelous gifts of native North Carolina homespun suits and silver presented to all our speakers and to the moderator. My friends, we'll never forget Asheville. (*Applause.*)



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